

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A descriptor propagation system comprising:

 an image acceptance device that receives an image having a plurality of descriptors

 and a plurality of image regions;

 a descriptor acceptance device that accepts ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of descriptors, which are
~~first descriptor~~ associated with a first content granularity;

 an image processing device that processes the image and recognizes a correspondence

 between said plurality of descriptors and said plurality of image regions, said image regions

 defining a second content granularity; and

 a descriptor propagation device that propagates said plurality of descriptors ~~the first~~
~~descriptor~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ the second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity,
and wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor without prior
data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity and without manual user
intervention.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

 wherein the descriptor propagation device generates a propagation function based upon
said plurality of descriptors ~~the first descriptor~~ and the first content granularity, and

 wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates said plurality of descriptors ~~the~~
~~first descriptor~~ based upon the propagation function and said plurality of descriptors ~~the first~~
~~descriptor.~~

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3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a repository that stores said plurality of descriptors ~~the first descriptor~~ associated with the first content granularity.

4. (Currently Amended) A descriptor mapping system, comprising:

an image acceptance device that receives an image having a plurality of descriptors and a plurality of image regions;

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts ~~[[a]]~~ said plurality of descriptors, which are ~~first descriptor~~ associated with a first content granularity;

an information repository that stores a mapping function; and

an image processing device that processes the image and recognizes a correspondence between said plurality of descriptors and said plurality of image regions, said image regions defining a second content granularity; and

a descriptor propagation device that propagates said plurality of descriptors ~~the first descriptor~~ to ~~[[a]]~~ the second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity, and wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the first descriptor without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second granularity and without manual user intervention.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

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a descriptor mapping device that generates another mapping function based upon said plurality of descriptors ~~the first descriptor~~ and the first content granularity, and that stores the second mapping function in the information repository.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

a repository that stores said plurality of descriptors ~~the first descriptor~~ associated with a first content granularity.

8. (Currently Amended) A descriptor classification system, comprising:

a descriptor acceptance device that accepts a first content that includes ~~a first descriptor~~ a plurality of descriptors at a first content granularity, the content including a plurality of regions;

a content processing device that processes the content and recognizes a correspondence between said plurality of descriptors and said plurality of regions, said regions defining a second content granularity; and

a descriptor propagation device that propagates content that includes the plurality of descriptors ~~first descriptor~~ to a second content granularity,

wherein the second content granularity is finer than the first content granularity, and

wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the content without prior data regarding the content at the second content granularity and without manual user intervention.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a descriptor classification device that generates a classification function based upon the

first content, and

wherein the descriptor propagation device propagates the content based upon the classification function and the first content at the first content granularity.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for propagating descriptors, comprising:

analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein analyzing the first content to determine the propagation function comprises extracting features from the first content.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for mapping descriptors, comprising:

an image acceptance device that receives an image having a plurality of descriptors and a plurality of image regions;

an image processing device that processes the image and recognizes a correspondence between said plurality of descriptors and said plurality of image regions, said image regions defining a second content granularity;

mapping a ~~first descriptor~~ said plurality of descriptors at a first content granularity to ~~the~~ the second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

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propagating ~~the first descriptor~~ said plurality of descriptors to the second content granularity without prior data regarding ~~the first descriptor~~ said plurality of descriptors at the second content granularity and without manual user intervention.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the mapping function is stored in an information repository.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising analyzing ~~the first descriptor~~ said plurality of descriptors to generate another mapping function.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for classifying descriptors comprising:
generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;
accepting a second content granularity that does not include a descriptor; and
propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~signal-bearing~~ computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of propagating descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for propagating the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~signal-bearing~~ computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of mapping descriptors, comprising:

instructions for mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

instructions for propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

19. (Original) The medium of claim 18, wherein the second descriptor is different than the first descriptor and is stored in an information repository.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~signal-bearing~~ computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of classifying descriptors, comprising:

instructions for generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a

first content at a first content granularity;

instructions for accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

instructions for propagating the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code, stored on a computer-readable medium, is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for propagating descriptors, said method comprising:

analyzing a first content at a first content granularity to determine a propagation function that correlates a first descriptor provided for the first content to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code, stored on a computer-readable medium, is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for mapping descriptors, said method comprising:

mapping a first descriptor at a first content granularity to a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon a mapping function; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content granularity without prior data

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regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of deploying computing infrastructure in which computer-readable code, stored on a computer-readable medium, is integrated into a computing system, such that said code and said computing system combine to perform a method for classifying descriptors, said method comprising:

generating a classification function based upon a first descriptor for a first content at a first content granularity;

accepting a second content that does not include a descriptor; and

propagating the first descriptor to the second content at a second content granularity that is finer than the first content granularity based upon the classification function without prior data regarding the first descriptor at the second content granularity.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)